

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Krasnodar Kray)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	The Night School for Working Youths at Gelendzhik	DATE DISTR.	15 May 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

2. The Night School for Working Youth was located on ul. Maksim Gorkiy, in Gelendzhik; I believe it to be typical of the thousands of night schools in the USSR organized for the convenience of working youths who, for financial reasons, have had to discontinue their education prematurely. Better jobs awaited those youths who managed to attend night school in the evening while working during the day in plants and factories.

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3. Only working youths were eligible to attend the school. Certificates from their plant or factory administration were required of those who wished to enroll. Courses were arranged to cover the fourth through tenth grades. There was no tuition, but students had to buy their own textbooks and materials. The school year ran from September to May. I do not remember the names of the principal or of any of the teachers, all of whom were regular teachers at the Gelendzhik ten-year school who taught at the night school to increase their incomes. I was told that the program of the school was equivalent to that of regular Soviet schools. This meant that a student who had successfully completed the tenth grade of the night school would be entitled to enroll in any university or institute on the same basis as graduates of regular 10-year schools.
4. In my class there were about 20 boys and 5 girls, ranging from 14 to 20 years of age. There was no age limit for any class; even a man of 50 years could enroll. Lectures were held four times weekly for four to five hours per day, from 1900 to 2300 or 2400 hours. School days were Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Attendance was obligatory, but a certain tolerance was shown to students who did miss a day now and then; the school administration certainly realized that all students had to work hard during the day to make their living, and sometimes just couldn't manage to attend all the lectures. On the other hand, since enrollment was on a voluntary basis, students did their best not to miss any lessons. Naturally, every lecture one missed would increase his homework load. Lectures were held in classrooms, of which there were about eight in the school. Every lecture was 50 minutes long with a 10-minute break between lectures. In addition to attending lectures, students had to do homework, especially in the Russian language, mathematics, and, less often, geography and history. Two to three hours were normally necessary to complete each day's homework; it was done either right after school from midnight on, or, much more often, on Wednesday or Saturday evenings, when there were no lectures in the school, or on Sunday, when there was no work at the plant or factory.
5. As well as I can remember, our fourth-grade subjects, with the approximate estimation of their weight in the total curriculum indicated by a percentage, were as follows:
- a. Russian language, spoken and written (35%)
 - b. Arithmetic (35%)
 - c. Geography of the USSR (20%)
 - d. History of the USSR (10%)

Frequently a two-hour lecture in the evening would supplement regular Russian language or arithmetic studies.

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- a. Russian language, with special emphasis on the orthography (30%)
 - b. Arithmetic: fractions, decimals, and percentage (20%)
 - c. Geography of foreign countries (15%)
 - d. Ancient Greek and Roman History (15%)
 - e. English language (10%)
 - f. Botany (10%)

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7. After the completion of each grade, a student was required to pass a final examination. Although, during the educational year, there was constant testing of students in all subjects (which afforded the teachers quite a good knowledge of each student's performance and ability), the annual examination was still given to ascertain this in a final and official way. Examinations were always attended by special representatives of the Rayon's Educational Board (Rayonnyy Otdel Narodnogo Obrazovaniya -- RayONO), as well as by the school principal. Students who failed the examination had either to repeat the class or to study three or four months in the summertime, in preparation for a make-up exam the next fall. Students who passed the final exam were issued certificates of successful completion of the particular grade; they then had the right to enroll in the next higher grade of any regular Soviet school. I never heard of a case where a student was dismissed from school during the school year either for absenteeism or for unsatisfactory work.)
8. In the fourth through sixth grades, the number of night school students was about 25 boys and girls per grade. The seventh and eighth grades normally had many more students, probably about 50 or 60; the ninth and tenth grades had about 40 in each. I do not know why attendance in the seventh and eighth grades was so large; it may have been because so many had to leave the regular schools after the sixth grade in order to start working. Some children attended the ninth and tenth grades in order to prepare for college, but they were few, especially after 1950, when acquiring a college education in the USSR became too expensive a proposition for any but the well-to-do.

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